

PERSISTENCE



To Graduation

Monthly E-news from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success



Graduation Requirements FAQ Released

Have questions regarding Kentucky's minimum graduation requirements? You can find answers to [frequently asked questions here](#).

Science Based Practices for Building Kinder, Happier Schools

The Greater Good Science Center Education Team recently announced the launch of [Greater Good in Education](#), a *free* new online resource that provides educators, school leaders, school mental health providers, and other education professionals with strategies and practices for the social, emotional, and ethical development of students *and* the adults who work with them. Highlights include:

- **Research-based and informed practices** for [cultivating positive relationships within schools](#); supporting the social and emotional needs of [students](#) and the [adults](#) who work with them; and for integrating SEL, mindfulness, and ethical development within [academic content](#)
- **Research-based evidence for each practice** that explains how a practice works and why it should be used in classrooms and schools
- **Personal dashboards** for users to [save, rate, and comment](#) on practices
- **Guidelines** for making a practice [trauma-informed](#); for evaluating a practice through a [diversity, equity, and inclusion lens](#); and for adapting a practice for students with [special needs](#)
- **Monthly [School Challenges](#)** that provide a collection of practices for addressing a specific dilemma faced by schools, such as [student anxiety](#)

Addressing Stigma and Preventing Bullying or Harassment Related to COVID-19

Public health emergencies, like the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), require strength and resiliency from all Kentuckians. Staff and students of our schools and districts are strong, capable, and compassionate. During times like these, it is natural to feel stress and anxiety, which can unfortunately lead to unpleasant effects like stigma about certain people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided a detailed [page about stigma and resilience](#) that is an excellent resource for schools and districts. Additionally, the Kentucky Department for Public Health has a [page devoted to COVID-19](#) that may be helpful. Please work to ensure that students nor staff members are subjected to bullying or harassing behavior due to concerns about COVID-19, family members who may be self-quarantined, or other groups that may be experiencing stigma including persons of Asian descent, people who have traveled, and emergency responders or healthcare professions. The U.S. Department of Education has issued a

[letter for educators](#) that provides guidance on how to address bullying and harassment related to COVID-19. For more information please contact [Victoria Fields](#).

Relevant Research, Practice Tips, and Briefs

Coping with Anxiety Related to COVID-19: It is important that we nourish ourselves in light of the current situation with COVID-19. Protect your mental health with the same vigilance as you are protecting your physical health. Below are some simple steps you can take:

- Breathe
- Take regular intervals away from social media
- Take a walk. Fresh air helps clear the mind and nature helps ground you.
- Stay informed but don't oversaturate yourself
- Do, watch, or read one thing each day that makes you smile or laugh

Below are some tools to consider:

- [Insight Timer](#) (thousands of free guided meditations and other tools)
- [Calm](#) (free week trial)
- [Crisis Text Line](#) (free, 24/7)
- [BetterHelp](#) (reasonably priced online therapy)

Research Based Answers from a Regional Education Laboratory (REL): Do you have a pressing question about a particular education topic? [You can ask now](#). Submit your query to Ask A REL to get a research-based answer, or search responses to questions others have asked such as, "[What does research say about how to close the math achievement gap?](#)"

Creating Paths for Change: This comprehensive road map project [report](#) out of several Washington school districts aims to provide a greater understanding of student disengagement and reengagement. Key findings using student voice are embedded in the report.

De-escalation Exercise for Upset Students: A [recent article](#) from [Edutopia](#) describes a simple technique that can help an agitated student regain the state of mind needed for learning. Scrolling down past the article you will also find simple metacognitive strategies to help anxious learners, and a 60-second strategy video about community circles.

Speaking Up on Teen Stress 60-Second practice video: This [brief video](#) highlights teen and educator insights into stress.

School Safety Preparation: [SchoolSafety.gov](#) is a new website designed to help support schools and communities prepare for and address various threats related to safety, security, and support in schools.

Prevalence of Human Trafficking: You can download a free [copy of the workshop proceedings](#) that explore considerations and complexities around human trafficking in the United States.

Innovations in CTE: This Capitol Hill forum presented leading research on CTE and analysis of the evolving workforce needs which have influenced development of innovative CTE strategies.

Presenters shared both an overview of the research and innovative CTE strategies at the secondary and postsecondary levels that have strong employer partners and are informed by research. You can access the slides and other resources [here](#).

Chronic Absenteeism Resources: The Healthy Schools Campaign has a [compilation of resources](#) to support a call to action in addressing chronic absenteeism.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

Webinars

The Power of Networks- Using Shared Accountability to Increase Student Success:

[Gateway to College](#) is a network of 35 college-based high school completion programs in 20 states for young people who have dropped out of high school or who are significantly off track to graduate. Because alternative high schools don't typically have clear accountability targets, the Gateway network set shared performance benchmarks. Through a program quality initiative called "Gateway to Program Success" (GPS), the network's collective graduation rate was increased by 24 percentage points in four years. This webinar will feature crucial lessons from the network and how they contributed to improved student outcomes. Participants will learn the seven domains of the GPS initiative. The webinar will address how the network's strategies for sharing effective practices and disciplined focus on data was able to benefit small programs with limited staffing. You can [register](#) for the webinar which will be held on March 20 at 2:00 (ET).

Creating Meaningful Solutions Together: Join Attendance Works and their 92 plus national partners for the launch of the 2020 Attendance Awareness Campaign! You'll hear about efforts in schools today that prioritize engaging families and students as part of an overall approach that improves attendance. You can [register](#) for this webinar which will be held on March 25, 2020 from 2:00-3:30 (ET).

The Promise of Adolescence Webinars: There is a webinar series based on a recent National Academies report, titled [The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth](#). The upcoming webinars will focus on [health](#) (March 26 at 1 PM ET), and [education](#) (May 1 at 1 PM ET). Registration for these webinars is currently open. You can also navigate the [interactive overview of report findings](#), and this [resource](#) focuses specifically on opportunities for the education sector with key findings and recommendations.

Broken Places: [Broken Places](#) explores why some children are permanently damaged by early adversity while others are able to thrive. Revisiting some of the abused and neglected children profiled decades ago dramatically illustrates how early trauma shaped their lives as adults. The film interweaves these longitudinal narratives with commentary from a few nationally renowned experts to help viewers better understand the devastating impact of childhood adversity as well as the inspiring characteristics of resilience. The film will premiere on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) on April 6 7-8 (PT).

Developing the Whole Child: This webinar from the *Niroga* institute will focus on how dynamic mindfulness supports development of the whole child. This [webinar](#) will take place on April 8 from 5:00 – 5:45 (ET).

Mental Health Series: The Pacific Southwest MHTTC School Mental Health Initiative is pleased partner with the National Center for School Crisis & Bereavement to offer a **three-part webinar series** on crisis readiness, response & recovery as a part of our School Violence learning track.

- **Webinar 1, *Principles of Commemoration and Memorialization***, is offered before graduation season to help us navigate honoring the lives of staff and students who have died in our communities. This will be held April 14th, from 6-7:30 (ET). You can [register here](#).
- **Webinar 2, *Supporting Grieving Students: How to Be Both Grief-Sensitive and Trauma-Informed***, helps us distinguish the experiences of grief and trauma in children so that we can understand how they inform one another and are also distinct in their support needs. This will be held on May 28th from 6-7:30 (ET). You can [register here](#).
- **Webinar 3, *Starting a New School Year: Sustaining Recovery from a School Crisis During Periods of Transition***, is offered at the start of our school years to help school and mental health leaders prepare for the year ahead attuned to what may come in transitions. This will be held on August 4th from 6-7:30 (ET). You can [register here](#).

Solutions to the Dropout Crisis Webcasts: *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* webcasts are always offered free of cost, and no registration is required. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM ET for new [Solutions to the Dropout Crisis](#), where you can also find recordings of previous webcasts.

Conferences and Activities (Be sure in-person events are still taking place as scheduled due to COVID-19 concerns).

Kentucky Association for Psychology in the Schools Spring Conference: Five total hours of training focusing on Using RTI for SLD Eligibility, Counseling Basics, an Introduction to Medicaid Billing, and Burnout Prevention! This spring conference will be held in two locations - April 22 in Morehead, KY and April 23 in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Please visit this [webpage for more information and to register](#).

Ready by 21 National Meeting in Louisville: The National Meeting by the Forum for Youth Investment will be held in Louisville April 15-17. Now in its ninth year, the [National Meeting](#) brings together more than 650 local, state, and national leaders who, like you, are committed to improving the odds that all children and youth can be ready for college, work, and life. These leaders manage change at all levels - from state policy coordination and community-wide cradle-to-career efforts to out-of-school time systems, single-issue coalitions, and neighborhood-based initiatives.

National Youth Employment Coalition and National League of Cities Re-Engagement Conference: This [conference](#) will be held June 22-23 in Nashville, TN. Participants will experience cutting-edge professional development, discuss best practices from around the country, learn about new efforts related to youth employment in the South, and problem-solve with colleagues.

Save the Date for the KY Persistence to Graduation Summit! The 2020 Persistence to Graduation Summit will be held July 8-9 at the Griffin Gate Marriott in Lexington. The summit is an opportunity for Kentucky educators to participate in peer-led interactive breakout sessions and networking opportunities to deepen knowledge of dropout prevention and re-engagement strategies. Participants will hear from experienced and award-winning industry leaders, including featured keynote speaker Jonathan Edison. Summit topics will include well-rounded educational opportunities, effective use of education technology, student transition and re-engagement strategies, safe and supportive learning environments, and alternative education. EILA credit and CEUs for social workers will be available for attendees. Registration will open this spring and will be posted in this E-news and on KDE's Persistence to Graduation [webpage](#).

Thank you for all that you do!

If you would like to contribute any information (resources, celebrations, etc.) to this enews, please email judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov. Also, please share this link with your colleagues who might be interested in subscribing to the [Persistence to Graduation listserv](#) (right click to subscribe)